



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

Motion Regarding Opposition to Canadian Military Involvement in Iran

Whereas on 7 September 2012 the government of Canada ordered the closing of the Canadian Embassy in Iran and expelled Iranian diplomats from Canada, indicating that the government of Canada will not seek a diplomatic resolution to conflict with Iran; ⁱ

Whereas the government of the United States has repeatedly stated it considers military intervention in Iran to be an option, and has recently participated in large-scale naval drills in the Persian Gulf; ⁱⁱ

Whereas the number of nuclear warheads possessed by Iran is zero, and the number of nuclear warheads possessed by the United States is 5,113; ⁱⁱⁱ

Whereas universities, including McGill, conduct research for defense ministries and military contractors, sell many of the skills required for the administration of military action, allow military recruitment on campuses, and invest in companies that profit from armed conflict, and are in these ways complicit in war; ^{iv}

Whereas hundreds of McGill students are directly from Iran, have family in Iran, and are adversely affected by sanctions and military action; ^v

Whereas the SSMU has historically opposed war and military intervention as a method for solving problems;

Whereas the SSMU has an equity policy that explicitly opposes all forms of oppression, which include imperialism and colonialism;

Whereas the SSMU has a resolution that registers its opposition to unethical investment and research in McGill;

Resolved, that the SSMU firmly oppose Canadian diplomatic and economic aggression towards Iran and oppose any military action that may be taken by Canada alone or in concert with other countries in the future;

Resolved, that the SSMU oppose all of McGill University's investments in military contractors and weapons manufacturers, weapons research, and research for government agencies that contributes to military action;

Resolved, that the SSMU provide information regarding Canadian military involvement, as well as support to students who may experience stress, trauma or other difficulty as a result of military activity.

Resolved, that the SSMU create a policy opposing military activity and McGill's relationship with military industries by the end of the Winter 2013 semester, and that this resolution be in effect until that policy is adopted.



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Moved by:
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ⁱ Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada News Release <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-ecommunications/2012/09/07/brspic-secw-warships-to-the-persian-gulf-to-prepare-for-an-israel-strike-on-iran>
ⁱⁱ Business Insider: US and Britain Sending Warships to the Persian Gulf to Prepare for an Israel Strike on Iran
<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-and-britain-sending-warships-to-gulf-2012-9>

ⁱⁱⁱ Arms Control Association: Who Has What at a Glance
<http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

^{iv} Demilitarize McGill <http://demilitarizemcgill.wordpress.com/>

^v McGill Daily: Canada-Iran tensions boil over <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2012/09/canada-iran-tensions-boil-over/>